



NYPD / Detective Bureau / Forensics Investigation Unit POLICE LABORATORY



Don't be Caught with Your Pants Down!!!

Eliot Springer, Deputy Director

NYPD Police Laboratory, New York City, NY



DISCLAIMER



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **With accreditation in place, and with all of its challenges, are our forensic laboratories prepared to expedite or meet in a timely and efficient manner, the challenges of handling cases in a life and death situation?**





NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY

Don't re-invent the wheel----



**But don't be afraid
to improve it!!!**





NYPD / DB / FIU
POLICE LABORATORY



- 1. Nothing earth-shattering – many ideas out there**
- 2. Much is dependent on your organization / department / location**
- 3. It all can be done and even more!!!**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **All jurisdictions / countries have own problems and issues – eg.:**
 - 1. Criminal / Terror related**
 - 2. Is there overtime?**
 - 3. Unions**
 - 4. Budget Constraints**
 - 5. Accredited?**
 - 6. More ideas?**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **Catalysts for looking at this challenge and putting something in place.**
- **Cases happening with various frequencies such as:**
 - **Kletzky**
 - **Nachshon Waxman**
 - **Central Park Bomb**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **The Kletzky Case:**
 - **Eight year old Leiby Kletzky, had disappeared on July 11, 2011 when he was walking home from summer camp in the Borough Park neighborhood of Brooklyn.**
 - **It was the first time his mother allowed him to walk home alone.**
 - **His mother planned to meet the boy halfway, but the boy missed a turn and got lost.**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



Kletzky – cont:

- **Leiby Kletzky asked thirty five year old Levi Aron for help and was not seen again, police said.**
- **In court, the detective gave a detailed description of how police found Leiby's dismembered corpse at about 2:45 a.m. on July 13.**
- **“Suspect Smothered Brooklyn Boy When Drugs Failed to Kill Him”**
- **Random conversation a couple of years later with the Chief of Detectives after a boy went missing from school**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- Nachshon Waxman case

ISRAELI CAPTIVE KILLED IN RESCUE ATTEMPT





NYPD / DB / FID
POLICE LABORATORY



Nachshon Waxman – cont.:

- **Nachshon Waxman, a 19-year-old Israeli-American corporal kidnapped last Sunday, died along with an Israeli commando officer and the three Palestinians in what the Israeli army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, described as a "brief but harsh, intense battle" in the West Bank town of Bir Nabalah, four miles north of Jerusalem.**



NYPD / DB / FIU
POLICE LABORATORY



Nachshon Waxman – cont.

- **The raid took place about 90 minutes before a 9 p.m. deadline by which Hamas had threatened to kill Waxman unless Israel released 200 Palestinian prisoners and Sheik Ahmed Yassin, an ailing Muslim cleric regarded as the Hamas spiritual leader.**

Waxman was killed by his captors as the Israeli commandos burst into the concrete house where he was held, Barak said.



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



Nachshon Waxman – cont.

- **Lab involvement**
- **Personal involvement**
- **Army vs. Police**
- **SWAT Commander**



NYPD / DB / FIU
POLICE LABORATORY



Central Park Bomb

- **Central Park Bombing Still Unsolved, Five Years Later:
'This Came From a Very Sinister Place'**
- **Connor Golden survived one of NYC's most vexing unsolved crimes**
- **Innocently jumped off a rock onto a plastic bag**
- **In recent memory: A bomb going off in Central Park**
Published July 2, 2021 • Updated on July 3, 2021 at 6:47 pm
- **TATP – meaning / possible affect**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **Central Park Bomb**





NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



Taken from advertisement:

- The goal of every forensic laboratory is to provide quality and timely forensic services.
- Does your laboratory's 'culture' support a philosophy of continuous improvement?



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **Are you considering adding additional forensic services to your business model?**
- **We can provide our expertise and vision in forensic laboratory consulting services to assist our clients in consideration of all phases of your laboratory operations.**
- **Step one is to identify the goals of the client.**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **Step two is to establish a strategic plan to achieve these goals with a timeline and specific deliverables.**
- **Step three is to educate and engage laboratory members in the process.**
- **Step four is to make the changes and to instill a core philosophy of continuous improvement in leadership and staff.**



NYPD / DB / FIU
POLICE LABORATORY



- **SORT SOP - Special *O*perations, *R*eporting, and *T*actics**
 - **Purpose**
 - **This procedure covers the response measures and strategies for the analysis of cases involving criminal investigations with high risk of imminent danger to life (e.g. acts of terrorism, violent crimes, hostage situations).**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY

- **SORT SOP - Special Operations, Reporting, and Tactics**

Purpose – cont:

- **S.O.R.T. will enable personnel to expedite the collection of investigatory evidence, accelerate the intake and transfer of evidence, perform the most time efficient analysis, and disseminate laboratory results to the appropriate customer.**

DO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **Stages / Steps**

- 1. Executives physically involved and oversee to solve, smooth, and expedite issues in all areas – limit who is authorized to declare a SORT case**
- 2. Scene (or evidence / letter)**
- 3. Transfer of evidence from field**
 - a) Physical**
 - b) Electronic**
- 4. Acceptance of evidence and distribution**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **Stages / Steps**

5. Opening, description and recording of evidence
a) **Consider audio recording and photography**

6. Main analyst and assistant

7. AR / TR as case progresses

8. Sending prints, DNA samples, etc. as exam progresses.

9. For places where LP development and LP comparison are done by separate units, have comparison person present to direct regarding “of value / no value” prints



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **Stages / Steps**

10. Prepared for:

- a) **Best examinations**
- b) **Best examinations without leaving traces**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **SORT SOP - Special *O*perations, *R*eporting, and *T*actics**
 - **Practice**
 - **In training – controversial – but do it – people need to be able to work under pressure**
 - **“Undue pressure”?**
 - **Your “go to” analyst**



NYPD / DB / FIU
POLICE LABORATORY



**Time Saved with QD – Questioned Documents SORT
Procedure**

- All estimates can vary based on the overall size of the case, analysis needed, and items with request for laboratory analysis
- **OVERALL APPROXIMATIONS OF TIME SAVED – eg.:**
 - Case Management Unit / Triage - 20 minutes
 - Evidence Control Section- 5.5 hours
 - Questioned Documents Unit- 20 hours



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



- **Think about willingness to have an accreditation finding or having inadmissibility in court**
- **Be ready to make the tough decisions and prioritize!**
- **Isn't the number one goal to save lives?**
- **QA and accreditation important tools and means but not ends**



NYPD / DB / FIU POLICE LABORATORY



Outline of topics covered:

1. Problem
2. 3 case examples
3. Participation – what do you think some of the problems might be?
4. Consider flow from beginning to end / lab
 1. What are delays, sticking points, etc?
 2. Consider and think about it before it happens
 3. Contingency plans
5. What did we do – SORT sop
6. Possible special circumstances – often depends on type of agency you work for
7. Think about willingness to have an accreditation finding or having inadmissibility in court



NYPD / DB / FIU
POLICE LABORATORY



Acknowledgements

- **Thanks to the Questioned Documents Section for their work on an SOP.**
- **Special thanks to:**
 - **Crim IV Mel Shaw**
 - **Crim IV Aurora Dumitra**
 - **Crim III Grace Warmbier**
 - **Crim II Caitlin Cunningham**



NYPD / DB / FIU
POLICE LABORATORY



Clarifications, comments, and more ideas????

Thank You!!!